



NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH SYSTEM

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FCC Mail Room

August 23, 2011

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile that is currently under review by the FCC. Approval of this merger will enable the expansion of broadband coverage throughout the country. This is especially important to rural states such as my home state of Vermont, where, as a result of this merger, the percentage of our State covered by mobile broadband will increase to 90% from the current 50% coverage we currently enjoy.

As an Administrator of a small Critical Access Hospital located Northern Vermont in the most rural and economically challenged part of the state, the increased coverage that would result from this merger is of critical importance to my hospital and community. Because of our small size, rural physicians have fewer colleagues with whom to share on-call coverage responsibilities. Improved wireless connectivity helps to ease this burden by enabling increased accessibility to medical records and other clinical information for physicians and other on-call staff.

Providing increased access to wireless broadband technology helps North Country Hospital in our mission to provide high quality health care in an efficient manner. It allows our rural hospital and community to access the same technological benefits that more affluent areas have been able to enjoy. For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your agency's favorable consideration of this merger.

Sincerely,

Claudio Fort
President and CEO

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